

PROGRAM

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, on Monday, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 14, the Energy bill. The chairman and ranking member were able to work through a number of amendments today, and they will continue to consider amendments during Monday's session. On behalf of the leader, I encourage Members who want to offer amendments to do so as early as possible next week. Those Members should contact the bill managers for an orderly consideration of those amendments.

Under a previous agreement, at 5:20 p.m. on Monday, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Earl Yeakel, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas. The Senate will vote on the Yeakel nomination at 5:30 p.m., and that will be the first rollcall vote of the day. Members should anticipate additional votes in relation to Energy bill amendments or any other items that can be cleared for action. In addition, the Senate will consider the trade agreements with Chile and Singapore. If all debate has been completed on those bills, the votes would also occur during Monday's session of the Senate.

Next week is the final week prior to the August recess. Senators can, therefore, expect busy sessions with rollcall votes throughout each day, and Members should schedule themselves accordingly.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess under the previous order following the remarks of the distinguished Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, for up to 20 minutes, and the distinguished Senator from Alabama, Mr. SESSIONS, for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH, for his courtesy in arranging for me to speak briefly before the Senate goes out for the weekend.

THE "REAL BEVERLY HILLBILLIES" IS REAL GARBAGE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, for more than a century now, national commentators of one type or another have stereotyped, mocked, and ridiculed the people of Appalachia.

They continued to do so even as the region and its people were savaged by Northeast industrialists, and as economic forces beyond their control resulted in massive gaps of poverty in the region. When I say "their control," I refer to its being beyond the control

of the people of Appalachia. The stereotyping of the Appalachian people as dim-witted, barefooted hillbillies who thrive on incest and moonshine allowed the Nation to laugh at and turn its back on the plight of a people who were being robbed of their land and its resources. It prompted the Nation to perceive and to dismiss Appalachians as the instigators rather than the victims of their plight.

Television has certainly been a part of this Appalachian bashing. "Green Acres" featured farming mountain folks conversing with a talking pig. The "Dukes of Hazzard" featured stereotypical mountain folk jumping into and out of cars, without bothering to open doors, and a car horn that played Dixie.

Even "The Waltons,"—remember the Waltons?—a series with numerous morally uplifting episodes and storylines that promoted hard work, love of family, honesty, patriotism, and spirituality, can be faulted for its beautifully romanticized version of poverty. It portrayed poverty as a way of life that nurtures, rather than inhibits, that builds character rather than denies opportunity.

I have seen poverty. I am one of poverty's children. I have known poverty, and poverty has known me. I can tell you that poverty is beautiful only if you are not poor.

In this day and age of political correctness, Appalachians may be the last remaining ethnic group that it is still socially acceptable to scorn, demean, stereotype, and joke about. If Jay Leno told such cruel, bigoted, and slanderous ethnic humor about any number of minority groups that he does Appalachians, he would have more than the ratings of David Letterman about which to be concerned.

Incredibly, the Columbia Broadcasting System, CBS, is planning to air a new program, "The Real Beverly Hillbillies." For this program, the brainchild of the CEO Leslie Moonves, CBS plans to pluck a poor, rural family from the hills of Appalachia and plop them down in a mansion in Beverly Hills so the Nation can laugh at them as they try to adjust to big city life. I have read that CBS is already conducting so-called "hick-hunts" in which they are searching for the perfect stereotype Appalachian family to amuse a national audience.

The insensitivity and mean spiritedness of this plan has already aroused protests and criticisms from many segments of American society including Appalachian social action groups, labor unions, and various State and national legislators.

The United Mine Workers of America, the Steel Workers Union, and Communication Workers have all protested the network's intent to ridicule good people and make fun of their lifestyles. Forty-three Members of the House of Representatives objected to the proposed program, saying it would be "an insult to the millions of people living in Appalachia."

While I am outraged, I am even more curious about just what kind of brain power went into proposing this show. I cannot help but chuckle when I picture these highly paid, supposedly educated television corporate executives sitting around in a plush, ornate boardroom and thinking of such a stupid program. I am sure most of these fellows earn at least a six-figure income. Some of them probably went to Ivy League schools. And this is what they come up with?

It is not even original. It is a plagiarism of an old program, only going a step further and using real people rather than actors.

Highly paid, highly educated television executives sitting around in an ornate boardroom and thinking of low-grade garbage such as this. If this were my staff, I can tell you that I would be looking for some new staffers.

But these CBS executives think it will be funny for city folk to sit back and watch country bumpkins try to blend into the culture of the "beautiful people" of Rodeo Drive. Their anticipation is that Americans will tune in and watch and just howl and howl as they watch a poor family from Appalachia adjust to the glitz and glamour of Beverly Hills, to modern appliances, Gucci shoes, and Rolex watches. Boy, I can hardly hold back my laughter, being one of those people from Appalachia, being one of those country bumpkins.

One CBS executive remarked: "Imagine the episode where they have to interview maids." Boy, I am sure that episode will be a real knee slapper.

I have to ask, Is this the best they can do? Is this the best television has to offer? Unfortunately, it is.

Just when you think the television standards can get no lower, they do. Just when you start thinking these bottom feeders have cleansed the bottom and might try to move up the food chain, they find more garbage at the bottom to keep them there.

This is an Appalachian speaking to an Appalachian who sits in the chair today and presides over this great body with such dignity and aplomb.

Television has become more than the "vast wasteland" FCC chairman Newton Minnow labeled it 42 years ago, it has become a waste.

This is the industry that brings us "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Fear Factor," and "Jerry Springer."

Fox Network has featured those unforgettable, morally uplifting hits, "Temptation Island," "Joe Millionaire," and now the latest, "Mr. Personality," which features the show's hostess, the talented Monica Lewinsky.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER.) If the distinguished leader would indulge the Presiding Officer to give the usual admonishment to those privileged to sit in the gallery of the Senate, they are not to enter into vocal expressions or disaffections.

Mr. BYRD. I congratulate the Chair on upholding the rules of the Senate.